

## 2008 Press Release Binder

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# September 2008

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 30, 2008, 4:45 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402-471-2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## **Attorney General Bruning Files Charges Against Adams County Treasurer and Office Employee**

Note: Sound bites on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today charged the Adams County Treasurer Julia Moeller and employee Michelan Parr with tax evasion, official misconduct in office and abuse of public records.

The Nebraska State Patrol's investigation showed Moeller, 66, purchased a 2004 Scottsdale motor home in Nebraska and then took it to Texas to register and license it. In order to do that, she had to show Texas officials that she paid sales tax in Nebraska since she purchased the vehicle here. According to the investigation, Moeller had Parr, 41, make out a bogus statement saying Moeller paid \$4,000 in Nebraska sales tax when she didn't. Parr later faxed that statement to Texas officials. Moeller is also Parr's mother.

"Ms. Moeller skipped out on \$4,000 in sales tax and her daughter helped her do it," said Bruning. "Moeller used her authority to unjustly benefit herself and both women violated public trust and should've known better. The law should be applied equally to everyone, including elected officials. They don't get special benefits because of who they are and what they do."

Tax evasion is a class IV felony with a penalty of up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 fine. Both official misconduct in office and abuse of public records are class II misdemeanors punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

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# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 30, 2008, 11:45a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402-471-2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## Company Pays Up and Consumers Receive More than 100K

Note: Sound bites on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that more than \$100,000 is being returned to 34 consumers. The money is restitution from former Omaha food company, Consumer's Choice Foods (CCF). CCF scammed customers into believing they would save time and money by signing a membership contract for food delivery and receive a free gift which was many times a freezer. Customers ended up paying astronomical prices for the food and more than \$4,000 for their free freezer that the company purchased for \$500-\$750.

"This is money that's going back into the pockets of affected families during tough economic times," said Bruning.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled in late August that Jayco Acceptance Corp. (Jayco), which is the company that financed CCF and purchased the contracts sold to its customers, was still liable for the former company's actions. The high court upheld the Lancaster County District Court's 2007 decision and required \$107,483 in restitution to consumers. The 34 consumers will receive checks ranging from around \$100 to more than \$5,000.

From 1995 until 2002, CCF promised grocery delivery services and benefits to customers who signed membership contracts, often under deceptive and unfair conditions. In 26 cases, CCF customers signed a membership contract based upon misrepresentations by the company that they would receive a "free freezer". Customers later discovered that the contract they signed actually obligated them to buy the freezer for well-over fair market value. CCF also promised customers they would save time and money because the company bought food in bulk, but a former CCF employee testified to shopping for food at local grocery stores and paying retail prices.

The district court also fined CCF and its owners, Chris, Kim and Jason Johnson, \$10,000 each in civil penalties and held Jayco liable for the \$40,000 fine. The court permanently barred the Johnsons from operating this type of business again in Nebraska, and is requiring Jayco to repair consumers' credit that was damaged by Jayco's debt collection practices.

Assistant Attorneys General Jeff Gaertig, Kimberly Taylor-Riley and Leslie Levy handled the case.

Consumers who believe they've been victims of a scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division toll-free at (800)727-6432 or file a complaint online at <http://www.ago.ne.gov>.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402.471.2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

**Attorney General Bruning Will Talk  
With Students About Internet Safety  
at Pawnee Elementary in Omaha  
Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 1:30 p.m.**

**WHAT:** Internet safety presentation for more than 100 students

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 30 at 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Pawnee Elementary  
7310 S. 48<sup>th</sup> St.  
Omaha

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept.26, 2008, 1:50 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402-471-2683  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## **Attorney General Bruning Comments on Nebraska Supreme Court Ruling in Water Authority Dispute**

**Note:** A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning issued the following comment on today's Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that upheld the state's authority to determine the area in which surface water and ground water are hydrologically connected when designating a river basin as fully appropriated. When the Department of Natural Resources designates a river basin as fully appropriated, immediate moratoriums are placed on new surface water and ground water uses.

"Today's ruling confirms that the state has the authority to use real-world hydrological factors in how we protect a fully appropriated basin," said Bruning.

The ruling also allows the state and local natural resources districts to continue moving forward with integrated management plans to manage ground water wells and surface water uses in the fully appropriated basin, which was the intent of the Nebraska Legislature (LB 962, 2004).

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# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 17, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402.471.2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## **Attorney General Bruning and Shred Monster Host *Protect Your Identity and Shred It!***

**Note:** A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that his office and Shred Monster will be hosting a free shredding event at the Columbus Senior Citizen Festival tomorrow.

“Identity theft is happening in Nebraska. Our Consumer Protection Division has received over 200 identity theft complaints in the last two years. However, shredding documents containing personal information means thieves can’t get their hands on them to steal your identity.”

Nebraskans are invited to bring documents containing personal or financial information to the *Protect Your Identity and Shred It* exhibit at Columbus Ag Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, September 18. Shred Monster will provide secure, industrial shredding services.

What kind of documents should be shredded?

- charge and debit card receipts
- credit offers
- expired credit cards
- old bills
- insurance and social security forms
- medical records
- checks and bank statements

For more information on how Nebraskans can protect themselves from identity theft, visit [www.ago.ne.gov](http://www.ago.ne.gov) or call the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-727-6432.

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# Attorney General Jon Bruning

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 17, 2008, 3:45 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402.471.2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## Attorney General Bruning Awards Husker Tickets to Culler Middle School Student

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning awarded two Husker football tickets to a Culler Middle School student today at an all-school assembly.

The ticket presentation created excitement for the kids but also gave Bruning a chance to highlight the importance of education.

“With a good education, you can be anything you want to be,” Bruning told students. “It’s important to work hard and study during the week but remember to have a little fun on the weekend. I have fond memories of attending Husker football games at your age, and I’m honored to be able to provide one of you with an amazing experience.”

The tickets are for the Sept. 27 Nebraska – Virginia Tech game at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

Bruning’s tradition of presenting an elementary or middle school student with two Husker football tickets each season started in 2001.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 15, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402.471.2067  
[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## Attorney General Bruning Comments on Proposed Carter Lake Casino Court Decision

**Note:** A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb) Attorney General Jon Bruning issued the following comment today after the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa denied the Federal government's motion to dismiss Nebraska's complaint against the proposed Carter Lake casino and consolidated Nebraska's case with Iowa's.

"The court recognized that Nebraska has an intense interest in what happens on land that can only be accessed by roads in our state. We welcome the opportunity to work with Iowa's attorney general challenging the proposed Carter Lake casino, a casino that would affect both Nebraskans and Iowans."

The court also granted the city of Council Bluffs' motion to intervene as a party in the case. A trial is set for Oct. 29 at 9 a.m. in Des Moines.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 9, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White

402.471.2067

Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

## \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

### **Attorney General Bruning Will Speak at the Protect Our Children Conference in Omaha Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 8 a.m.**

**WHAT:** The 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Protect Our Children" conference organized by the Nebraska U.S. Attorney's Office

With the evolution of technology, we've seen an increase in technology-related sex crimes against children. The threat of sexual predators soliciting children for sex is serious, and the danger of the production, distribution and possession of child pornography is equally victimizing.

The conference will provide instruction, information and assistance in prevention, investigation, prosecution and victim assistance in child enticement, child pornography and child sexual assault cases.

Participants include: law enforcement, victim service providers, prosecutors, child protective services, social workers, probation, parole and judicial officers.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 10 at 8 a.m.

**WHERE:** Doubletree Hotel, 1600 Dodge St., Omaha

**TOPIC:** Protecting children from sexual exploitation.

**WHO:** Attorney General Jon Bruning will give opening remarks.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sept. 5, 2008, 11:45 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White  
402.471.2067

Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

## Attorney General Bruning Says Death Sentence for Murderer Should Stand

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb) The Attorney General's Office presented oral arguments in front of the Nebraska Supreme Court today arguing the five death sentences handed to Norfolk bank robber Jorge Galindo should be upheld.

Galindo was one of three robbers who entered the U.S. Bank in Norfolk in 2002. Inside the bank, Galindo, Jose Sandoval and Eric Vela shot and killed four bank employees and a customer. A jury convicted Galindo on five counts of first-degree murder. Galindo was sentenced to death for each murder.

"This level of violence and senseless loss of life demands the ultimate punishment," said Bruning. "The victims and their families deserve justice."

In Nebraska, every death sentence must be reviewed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Assistant Attorney General Kimberly Klein is handling the case.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 5, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White

402.471.2067

[Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov](mailto:Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov)

## \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

### **Attorney General Bruning Will Speak at Sexual Assault Conference in North Platte Monday, September 8 at 9 a.m.**

**WHAT:** "Unspoken Crimes: A Community Response to Sexual Assault in Nebraska"

Statistics show that only one in six sexual assault victims report the crime to law enforcement. One of the goals of this conference is to help increase the reporting of sexual assault. The conference will also focus on police protocol, victim assistance, prosecution methods, and the role of the advocate in rural communities.

Participants include: law enforcement and probation officers, victim advocates, medical and emergency personnel, and prosecutors.

**WHEN:** Monday, September 8 at 9 a.m.

**WHERE:** North Platte Community College  
North Campus  
1101 Halligan Dr.

**TOPIC:** Sexual Assault

**WHO:** Attorney General Jon Bruning will open conference.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 3, 2008, 3:45 p.m.

Contact: Leah Bucco-White

402.471.2067

Leah.bucco-white@nebraska.gov

## **Attorney General's Office Presents Additional Oral Arguments in Former Trooper Tied to KKK Case**

**Note:** A sound bite on this topic is available at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning's Office presented additional oral arguments to the Nebraska Supreme Court in the case of Robert Henderson.

Henderson, a former Nebraska State Patrol trooper, was terminated from his position in March of 2006 after an investigation determined he had joined a group associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

An outside arbitrator later decided Henderson should be reinstated. In October of 2006, a hearing was held in Lancaster County District Court where the state asked the judge to set aside the arbitrator's decision. The judge agreed with the state and said the State Patrol was not required to reinstate Henderson. Henderson appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court. Oral arguments were presented in March. The court then decided it wanted more information on the case and ordered additional oral arguments which were held today.

"The facts remain the same. A man who embraces racism and white supremacy shouldn't be allowed to carry a gun and a badge," said Bruning. "The State Patrol is here to protect and serve all people."

The Attorney General's Civil Litigation Bureau Chief Tom Stine is handling the case.

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